

OMB Control Number: 2900-0260.

*Type of Review:* Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

*Abstract:* Section 7332, Title 38, United States Code requires the VA to obtain prior written consent from a patient before information concerning treatment for alcoholism or alcohol abuse, drug abuse, sickle cell anemia, or infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) can be disclosed from a patient medical record. This special consent must indicate the name of the facility permitted to make the disclosure, the name of the individual or organization to whom the information is being released, specify the particular records or information to be released, be under the signature of the veteran and dated. It must reflect the purpose for which the information is to be used, and include a statement that the consent is subject to revocation and the date, event or condition upon which the consent will expire if not revoked before. The Privacy Act of 1974 and VA confidentiality statute, Section 5701, Title 38, United States Code also requires a written patient consent.

The information is collected from the patient. VA personnel complete 50% of the total number of forms used and the patient must simply sign and date the form. Patients complete the remaining 50% of the total number of forms. The information is usually handwritten. If the VA did not collect this information, medical records protected Title 38, U.S.C., Section 7332, could not be released from a patient's records. This would have a negative impact on patients who need and want information released to private insurance companies, physicians and other third parties.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on September 11, 1997 at page 47871.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 10,779 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 2 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 323,378.

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, Allison Eydt, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-4650. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0260" in any correspondence.

Dated: March 16, 1998.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Donald L. Neilson,**

*Director, Information Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-9322 Filed 4-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0166]

### Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before May 11, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT:** Ron Taylor, Information Management Service

(045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8015 or FAX (202) 273-5981. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0166."

### SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

*Title and Form Numbers:* Application for Ordinary Life Insurance (Age 65), VA Form 29-8485, and Application for Ordinary Life Insurance (Age 70), VA Form 29-8485a.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0166.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* The form is used by the policyholder to apply for replacement insurance for Modified Life Reduced at Age 65 and 70. The information is used by VA to initiate the granting of coverage for which applied.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on April 29, 1996 at page 18776.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; required to obtain or retain benefits.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 1,284 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 5 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 15,400.

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, Allison Eydt, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-4650. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0166" in any correspondence.

Dated: March 16, 1998.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Donald L. Neilson,**

*Director, Information Management Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-9324 Filed 4-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P